



the ALMAGEST

... your Pilot News source

Editorial edition

Edition of many opinions

by Chris Gray, Editor in Chief

In my years at LSUS the student newspaper has never truly let the students speak their mind in the articles we publish. So for the first and the last time we are going to have a special Editorial edition. The students have spoken on topics ranging from the saggy pants ordinance to the lack of patriotism in the new millennium. Take a moment and listen to the voice of a generation.



Dr. Kathryn Sullivan spoke to students of all ages at the LSUS theater Tuesday night. Sullivan said "Education in America must step up to the challenges of the world." Sullivan is the first woman to walk in space and has flown three shuttle missions.

State of emergency: Jena, La

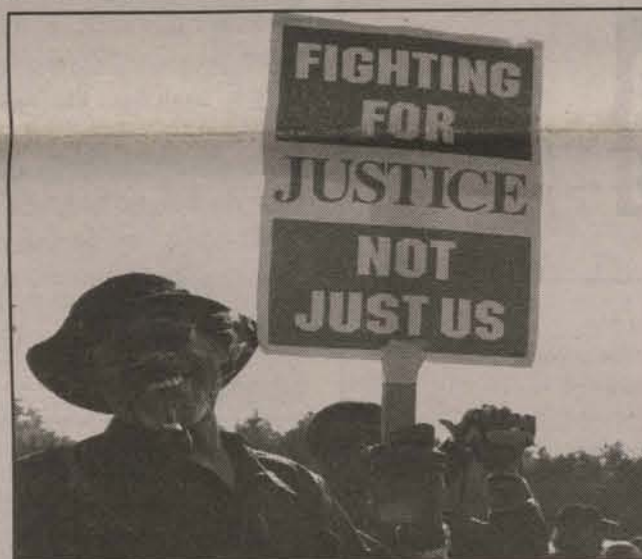
by Christine Bradley &
Devin White

Background: In December of last year, six Jena High School students were arrested and charged with second degree attempted murder for beating up a white school mate. The situation began when a black student, after asking permission from the school principal, sat under an unspoken "all-white" tree. Nooses were discovered hanging from the tree the next day. The superintendent of the LaSalle school district reduced the original punishment of expulsion to a three day, in-school suspension, claiming the demonstration was a "prank." Black students at the school retaliated with a "sit-in" under the tree. After back-and-forth fighting between black and white students, the so-called, "Jena Six," were arrested and charged as adults and one has remained incarcerated up to this day.

On Thursday, September 20th the sparsely populated town of Jena, LA temporarily grew from about 2,500 to over 20,000. Our bus looked as though it parked in the middle of the woods.

Groups sporting black wardrobe flooded from every direction towards Ward Ten Park. A rally preceded a march for the freedom of the Jena Six.

We looked around and noticed that the group we were with was probably the largest group of whites present. We exchanged similar, confident glances, and it became obvious in that mo-



ment. We were meant to be there. Upon this realization, the previous priority of objectivity seemed out of reach.

Hundreds were already gathering on the wet grass of the Ward Ten park by 7 a.m., and state troopers were gathering at nearly every street

corner in the town. Helicopters swarmed above, but the noise was drowned by inspirational messages delivered by multiple members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

The Louisiana State Police estimated that at least 20,000 traveled to Jena for the rally/march. Protesters traveled from states as far as

Michigan, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina. It was obvious the situation in Jena, La had prompted strong emotions in people all over the country. We pondered how we were expected to devote ourselves to this state that seems to have an archaic mentality, **cont.pg.4**

Patriots of the new millennium

by Katie Bickham

The problematic dichotomy of Americanism is simply part of our citizenship. Our country itself was born in a roomful of revolutionary traitors, and yet our society is built on a sort of loyalty and a unity around central values of our beloved Constitution. Now as we stand in the wake of six years worth of bruises, we must, as our forefathers did, reconsider what it means to be an American patriot.

Merriam-Webster defines a patriot as "One who loves his or her country and supports its authority and interests." Unfortunately, this definition does not address the great schism we find authority between American patriots today. Do we support our country's authority? Can we support it if we don't respect it? Who ultimately decides upon the interests of America? Is there such a thing as a traitor in a free country? These questions, coupled with the recent events in the United States-
Cont. pg 2



Jena, La:
More pictures from
the march



Zombies draw 25
million dollars first
weekend

the **Almagest**

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Editorial Policy

The information presented in this publication by no means reflects the opinions of the administration or staff of LSUS. *The Almagest* seeks to provide information for the LSUS campus and community; to involve students, faculty and staff, and to provide a public forum for ideas as guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution. Comments and complaints are welcome and should be addressed to Chris Gray, Editor-in-Chief. They must be accompanied by your full name and e-mail address.

Letters Policy

Letters to the editor are encouraged. However, the staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, and content. Any letter submitted by a club or organization must be signed by all members of the group or by the group's president. Letters should be e-mailed or submitted to the *Almagest* office, BH 344, by 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Please type the letter and include your classification and major. *The Almagest* reserves the right not to publish submitted materials. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters will not be printed.

Editorial edition**Patriots cont.**

history have led to the birth of two extremely different groups of patriots.

The first type of patriot is glad the fates saw fit to plant him or her in America. He or she is in a constant state of gratitude for the safety, freedom, and opportunities he or she enjoys here. Despite any of his or her personal qualms, he or she respects the outcomes of the free elections in which he or she takes part and trusts in those elected to care for the country in his or her ultimate best interest. This patriot backs up the government in most of its maneuvers, because he or she is grateful to it for the freedoms it provides him or her. They respect the power of the people to elect leaders in which they have confidence.

The second type of patriot believes that it is not only their right, but also their responsibility to question, and in some cases, to disagree heartily with the decisions of the people in charge. With the release of certain civilian films such as "Loose Change", and more recently "Zeitgeist", Americans have seen fit to dissect the higher-ups, wondering if this government "of the people" is also still a government "for the people". This patriot no longer watches the news with the same faith, he or she might have while watching a documentary on the discovery

channel. This patriot believes strongly, just as his or her forefathers did, that if he or she does not like what's going on in the White house, he or she should be first in line to change it.

Who is correct? Is the better patriot the one who runs valiantly after his or her flag on the battlefield, or is he or she the one standing on the sidelines wondering if this war should be going on at all? In one sense, we must, in the same manner that we once respected the words of our parents, respect the words of our leaders with the knowledge that they have simply been around longer and have access to much more information than we. As civilians, we must, to a certain extent, trust the people we've elected to handle the issues for us. In another vein completely, we must still believe in our rights to redress our grievances, to be our governments' extra set of checks and balances. It is ultimately left to us to decide how we will be governed.

The most authentic patriot is an amalgamation of the two. It is a citizen who understands the balance between the power we give to those who govern us and the power we retain to govern ourselves. It is a citizen who will beg justice of America without forgetting to stop and appreciate all of the justice America has already provided. It is, ultimately, a citizen who both holds the flag high and holds it accountable.

CAUTION: You Could Be the Target of Hidden Discrimination**by Sherita Holden**

The City Council in Shreveport, has had it with saggy-pants favored by some youths, next month a fashion offense could cost \$100. Mayor Cedric Glover signed an ordinance setting a community decency standard approved 4-3 that essentially bans people from wearing their pants below their waists, exposing undergarments or flesh. Chronic saggy-pants wearers could be sentenced to court-ordered community service like picking up trash. Sherita Holden had her own views about this new development.

No to Same-Sex marriage, No to Common-Law Marriage, No to sagging pants, what's next - no to blonde hair?!

On September 31, Shreveport City Council approved an ordinance banning wearing pants below the waist in public. The ordinance has undergone two amendments since its original, which was proposed by Councilman Calvin Lester.

The ban has become a hot topic across the country. The First Amendment guarantees citizens the right to freedom of speech and expression causing thousands of Americans to call the ban unconstitutional. Many conservatives argue that the ban is well overdue, claiming that "sagging" is a sign of disrespect. They believe the ban is geared more towards redirecting our youth's behavior and overall image. Liberals, on the other hand, say that

government has targeted certain groups of people and have publicly imposed its biased opinion on matters that aren't defined as its duty. Young people will go out of their way to defy and rebel against authority if they feel they're being treated unfairly or that their sense of individuality has been compromised.

If the ban is an attempt by local officials to give our city a facelift, making us more marketable to big businesses or if the movement is one of many that the government has planned as a method of controlling the right of American citizens to freedom of expression, it's certainly one that has captured the nation's attention.

CAMPUS UPDATE



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Porter returns to center court

by Jennifer Cook

Josh Porter ready to make return to center court!

The doctor came into the room and said, "Josh, you are definitely not normal." This is exactly what Josh wanted to hear. On September 7th, Josh Porter, senior, criminal justice major and shooting guard for the men's basketball team, had one final MRI and was given a clean bill of health. His spine is straight and all of the bones have fused back together.

Last season Porter suffered from a very serious neck and spine injury that could have changed his life forever. Now fully healed, Porter thanks "God and all [he] can do is smile."

Porter broke his C-5 vertebra in 3 places. The C-5 vertebra controls most movement and functions of your body. Two days after the accident, Porter was operated on at LSU Medical Center. Doctors said Porter had a 99.9% chance that he would never walk or have feeling in his body again.

The night of the accident, Porter remembers thinking about his mom, dad, teammates, and then his basketball career.

Initially Head Coach, Chad McDowell thought "he just can't catch

a break." Porter had already been to the hospital twice that same week for a broken nose and bruised tailbone.

McDowell remembers when the paramedics took him out of the gym. Porter raised his finger and said goodbye to the crowd.

"It was his way of telling us he was going to be ok, whether the doctors told him he was ok or not," said McDowell.

McDowell has been coaching Porter for the last eight years, making him the player he has coached the longest. McDowell said it has been an honor to coach him and wants Porter to enjoy his last year at the collegiate level.

Porter said he feels like a king, because no one can change that he is here or why he is here.

"I can shoot better, jump higher, and run faster," said Porter.

Through all of these events in the past year, the coaches and teammates have been there for Porter and each other.

"When we say 'one-two-three together' at the end of practices, we mean it," said McDowell.

"I can shoot better, jump higher, and run faster."
Josh Porter



Jena, La continued

but the words of Jesse Jackson's rally speech came to mind: "There is a Jena in every state."

The words of many other NAACP speakers continue to echo. Dennis Courtland Hayes, one of the national board directors for the NAACP, reminded the crowd to remain confident.

"Together we must continue standing up for what is right," said Hayes, "Racism in America is alive and well."

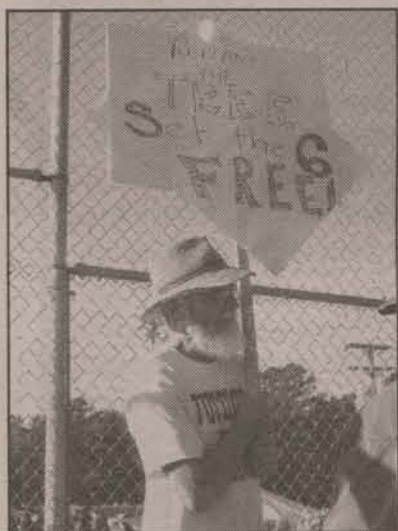
Voting was a major focus for the rally speakers. NAACP members encouraged the crowd to have a voice about who is in charge, and the organization provided a booth where anyone could register to vote.

Towards the end of the rally, protestors began lining in rows of eight. Awestruck at the size of the crowd, it was hard to believe this all started from a student seeking shade under a tree.

There was definite racism occurring in Jena, La, and inconsistent discipline was applied to the white and black students of Jena High School. Otherwise, why were tens of thousands gathered on this day?

While at the march, it seemed the demands would be met; the passion was undeniable, but oppression continues to occur. The website, www.overthrow.com, published the addresses and phone numbers of the Jena Six families, encouraging harassment from callers. The website is entitled "Lynch the Jena Six" and even lists whether the numbers are active or not. The FBI is investigating the site from the possibility of breaking federal law.

A petition for the freedom of the Jena Six is available online. the petition will be sent to both Governor Kathleen Blanco and LaSalle parish district attorney, Reed Walters, and it can be found at www.colorofchange.org/jena/.



"Stop the violence!"
said Rev. Jesse Jackson

Thousands of protestors
show up for the Jena 6



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YOU CAN MAKE A COMMITMENT.

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THERE ARE BIG COMMITMENTS.

SMALL COMMITMENTS.

COMMITMENTS YOU NEVER

WANTED TO MAKE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

YOU CAN EITHER FEAR COMMITMENT

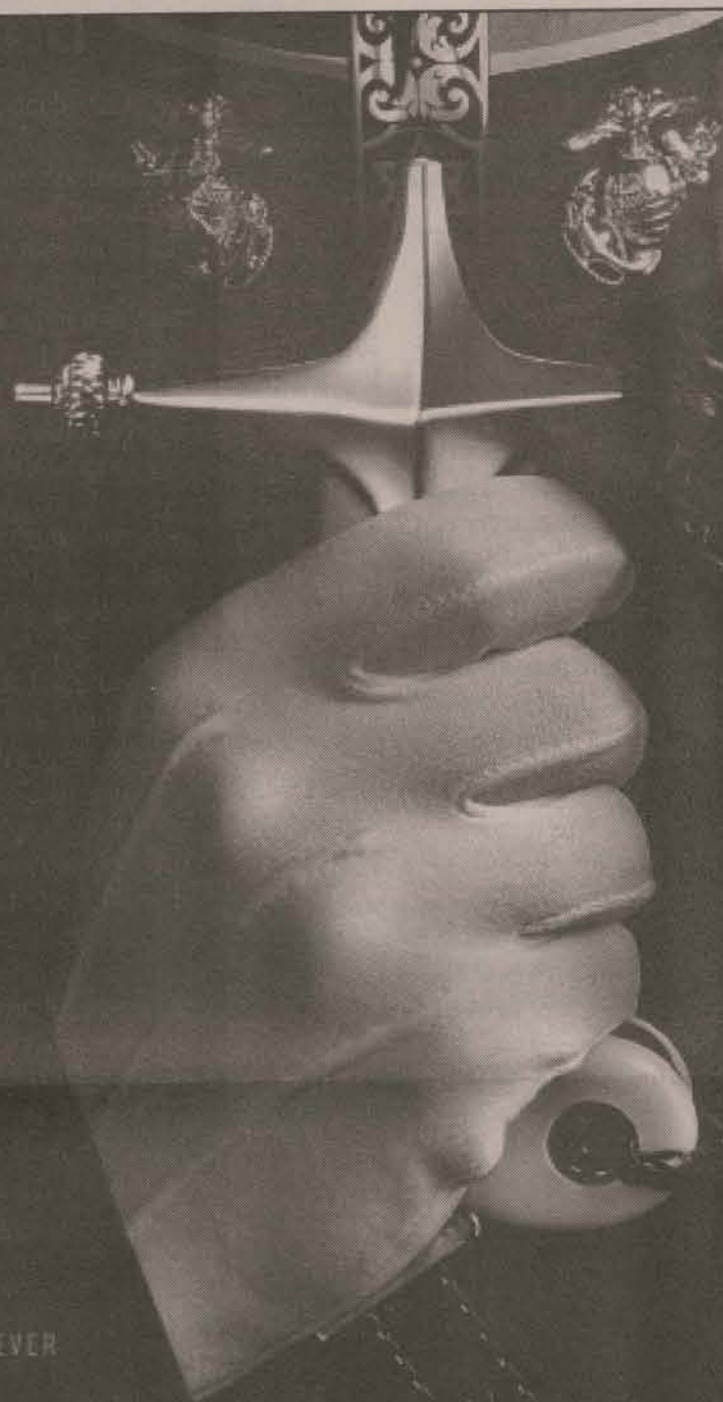
OR EMBRACE IT.

AS AN AMERICAN AND
A MARINE CORPS OFFICER

YOUR COMMITMENT WILL IMPACT

THE FUTURE OF THIS NATION.

FEW CAN BE MARINES.
EVEN FEWER CAN LEAD THEM.
CAN YOU?





SPORTS



Lady Pilots remain victorious

by Justin Powell

The Lady Pilots do it again folks. Your Lady Pilots "rammed" one past the Rams last Saturday. Yes, they are sweet!!! Now the Lady Pilots sit at 2-0 in the GCAC conference.

We are now officially on a two game winning streak.

The Lady Pilots scored 25 seconds into the game Saturday. GOAL!!! The goal made by junior Julia Vaughan, #13 puts her at nine goals on the season.

Freshmen Catlin Smith, #7, also made a goal in the first half to give the Lady Pilots a 2-0 lead at half time.

The University of Mobile played a great game and gave a great effort in their disappointing loss.

Their next opponent will be Belhaven College on next Tuesday at 3 p.m. in "The Swamp." We all ready handed the Lady Blazers a loss this year on September 12th. The final score on the game was 2-0.

As the Lady pilots easily beat the Braves last week; they might have to try a little harder this time around. The reason is the Lady Blazers will come with a little bit more gumption.

One other thing is we all need to come out to "The Swamp" and show some support. The attendance at the last game was 50 people. These ladies's are too awesome for us not to show our support. I'll see y'all out there!

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Men's Basketball: Home Games

Opponent	Date	Time
♦Jarvis Christian	11/12/2007	7:00p.m.
♦UT at Tyler	11/24/2007	3:00p.m.
♦Texas College	11/28/2007	7:00p.m.

Women's Basketball: Home Games

Opponent	Date	Time
♦Jarvis Christian	11/12/2007	5:30p.m.
♦Texas A&M	11/15/2007	6:00p.m.
♦Paul Quinn	12/14/2007	7:00p.m.
♦Wiley	12/15/2007	4:00p.m.

Julia Vaughan Named GCAC Offensive Player of the Week

by Kyle Blankenship



Julia Vaughn, #13, Junior, GCAC player of the week

Women's Soccer Schedule

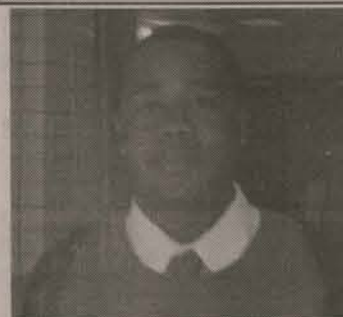
Date	Time	Opponent	Location
10/2/2007	3:00pm	Belhaven College *	LSUS
10/5/2007	3:00pm	William Carey College *	LSUS
10/7/2007	1:00pm	Spring Hill College *	LSUS

Junior Julia Vaughan has been selected as the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference Offensive Player of the Week for the week of September 10-16.

Vaughan helped lead the Lady Pilots to a conference opening win versus Belhaven College on September 12. Vaughan tallied the first goal of the game in the 2-0 LSUS win. Vaughan also added a goal in Sunday's loss to Auburn University-

Montgomery, moving her season total to seven goals.

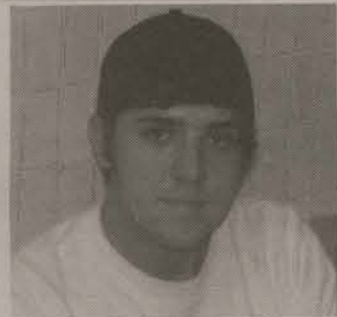
Vaughan, the 2006 GCAC Offensive Player of the Year, is the All-time LSUS career leader in goals scored with 29.



Chris Hobley,
biology major
LSU: 47
Tulane: 10



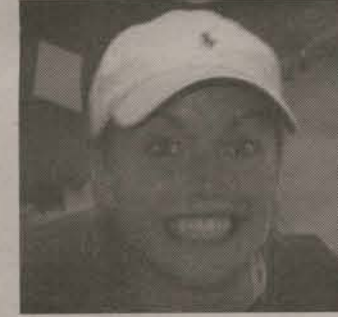
Cassandra Perdue,
pre-veterinarian major
LSU: 30
Tulane: 13



Bill Coff,
business management major
LSU: 24
Tulane: 14



Stephen Posey,
communications intern
LSU: 54
Tulane: 17



Kristen King,
mass communications major
LSU: 63
Tulane: 3

ENTERTAINMENT

Weekly Music Line-Up

Band	Date and Time	Place to be
Wynonna Judd	9/28 @ 8:00p.m.	Horseshoe
I Wrestled a Bear	9/28 @ 8:00p.m.	Soundstage
Ono!	9/28 @ 10:00p.m.	Mia's Pub

Avoiding boredom

by **Lauren Anderson**

In the first article, we're going above and beyond, traveling an *hour* east to prove that there are things to do around here.

Located on the west outskirts of Ruston, Louisiana, is a steakhouse which moonlights as a concert venue. Rabb's Steakhouse and Spirits has housed Willie Nelson, Dierks Bentley, and as I witnessed Friday night, Reckless Kelly and Pat Green.

To my pleasant surprise, Pat Green puts on a great show! Reckless Kelly has a mandolinist! The Rustonites and Techsters are nice people, ready to party in orderly fashion.

The first floor (basement) of the Louisiana Tech library is the closest regional depository of government documents. They receive one copy of every publicly distributed government document. The collection currently consists of over two million items.

The fourth floor, the foreign policy center, has a museum. On display now are pottery from the Caddo Native Americans, creations by German POWs of the WWII camp near Ruston, and civil war letters.

The quaint downtown area is comprised of shops, bars and restaurants, all within walking distance.

It isn't possible to exhaust all of Ruston's fun-sources in one day, but it's a nice

town when you want to avoid the boredom of Shreveport and Bossier for an evening or afternoon.

"SOX" of tunes

Shreveport Opera Express Singers (SOX) will present a mini-concert in room 110 of bronson hall on Thursday, October 4, designed to fit within the common hour, the program will begin at 10:40 and conclude by 11:05. Free.

The dead rise from box-office

by **Chris Gray**

"Resident Evil: Extinction" starring Mila Jovovich, Oded Fehr, and Mike Epps is the third installment to the "Resident Evil" franchise. The film follows a group of survivors from Raccoon City on their way through Las Vegas to Alaska to escape the undead hordes created by the evil Umbrella Corporation.

Mila Jovovich ("The Fifth Element," "Dazed and Confused") returned as Alice to pick up the ass kicking where she left off in the previous films. Her acting was superb. She could set the screen ablaze with her ability to use everything in her acting arsenal, and her witty dialog kept the character intense, lovable, and down right sexy. She brought no

development to the character at all. There was no new plot twist involving Alice or her super human powers. This is the only place that Jovovich failed to deliver.

Oded Fehr ("Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo", "The Mummy") also reprised his role as Carlos one of the mercenaries in the second film sent to take out the undead threat. Not only can he kick zombie tail with the best of them, he can make it genuine and fun to watch. He has the potential to be a great actor, but there was no where for him to express it in this film.

Mike Epps ("Next Friday", "Roll Bounce") returns to portray L. J. from "Resident Evil: Apocalypse." In the previous movie, he was merely the "token black guy" who pro-

vided comic relief through out the movie. In this film, he proves that he can be a versatile actor. Not only does he have his comedic flare, but he cries at the loss of a loved one. He transforms from a coward to a hero.

Director Russell Mulcahy uses super cinematography, special effects, and the acting abilities of his cast to make a heart pounding, zombie thrill ride. His camera angles will catch your eye and make you focus on the events taking place on the screen. The special effects were so realistic, they could make you cringe. The ability of the actors make the film fun and harrowing all at the same time.

"Resident Evil: Extinction" will grab you and not let go until the credits roll.

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"in oklahoma"

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Pelican Briefs

Follow Fola

by Fola Hammone

The "Biggest Challenge" for overweight people is the emotional torment cause by their weight. The comments of some rude and hateful people make the overweight want to completely shut down or fight back. The best advice I have is to never, in your life, let anyone break you down.

While at work this past weekend, I was called some horrible names due to my weight. I was so hurt that I cried. I would never think that, at my age, I would still have to conquer "bullies" at the work place. Bullies have been my arch nemesis since I was a child.

Overweight people do not just "put up" with the pain of being teased. They often deal with clinical depression. For a while in high school, I dealt with this problem. It seemed as if I could not see clearly. The pain and verbal abuse I dealt

with at home did not help me on my path to better mental health.

Later I would soon understand that I would have to grow a thick skin. I could not let everything affect me. I am still traveling the road to success, but I can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel. One person who helped me through the hard times is my Aunt Core. She is my rock and strongest woman I know. My Aunt is my hero. Everyone needs a hero.

For those of you who are reading this article and going through weight problems: do not give up! If you want to lose weight, then do it. To the people who are happy with their weight, good. I'm happy that you're happy. Never let anyone tell you that you can not do something. You may want to cheat on your diet. It's ok you are human. As long as you don't cheat everyday, it will be alright.

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		5		1		3	7	
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7			6		1			5

SAB Schedule

CoffeeHouse presents:

**Javier Mendoza &
Diversity Day**
10/2 @10:30a.m.
UC Port Stage

**Movie Night:
Dream Girls**
10/4 @ dark
UC Mall

CoffeeHouse presents:

Tim Mahoney
10/23 @ 10:30a.m.
UC Port Stage

**Movie Night:
The Invisible**
10/23 @ dark
UC Mall

**Freaky Fall Fest
comedian, Pete Holmes**
10/24 @ 7:00p.m.
UC Theater

**Ghost Hunter,
Chris Moon**
10/25 @ 7:00p.m.
UC Theater

Freaky Fall Fest '07
10/25 & 10/26 @
10:00a.m.-2:00p.m.
UC Theater

**Midnight Madness
"Hoop'n it up"**
10/26 @10:00p.m.
HPE Gym

**Movie night:
Ratatouilli**
11/3 @6:00p.m.
UC Theater

**Movie night:
Freedom Writers**
11/8 @7:00p.m.
UC Theater

Legends of Tiraskul

by Chris Gray

I was on my back. The beasts putrid breath washed over me as its saliva slid down my face. Instincts took over as I lied there knowing that certain death was coming. I punched, screamed, clawed, and like that, I was away. The beast stood at its full height which was well over that of an average man. It stared into my eyes as if it knew me some how, and then lunged.

I side stepped its attack and with an upward strike of my sword, that made my shoulder go numb, I relieved it of its life.

When I turned to aid Pogoo, I could do nothing but stare at the dance I saw in front of me. As I gazed at the spectacle, Pogoo

switched from left foot to right, side stepping a swing by one monster while thrusting his dagger into the other creature's chest. As he pulled the blade away, he ducked another swing from a creature directly behind him. His deadly mane whipped forward ripping the poor beast from groin to gullet. He then spun to his left dropping to one knee to hamstring his final opponent.

The creature screamed with agony as Pogoo pulled the knife free. He walked around the beast methodically and squatted in front of it letting his hair hang over his face. He looked upon the misshapen being as if it were a long lost relative that had some how disappointed him in the past.

Anchors away

by Justin Powell

Billy Ray Russell got a special letter on September 18, 2007, that read like this: I would like to congratulate you upon being chosen for one of the Custodian Supervisor I positions here at LSU in Shreveport. Although there were several qualified applicants, your qualifications and work experience stood out. Your promotion will be effective on Monday, October 1, 2007. That letter was sent by Jimmy Dillard, Assistant Director of Custodial Services.

We at the Almagest have had the privilege of having Billy Ray clean and take care of our floor. He has become like family to us on the third floor.

Chris Gray, Editor in Chief of the Almagest, said, "From the first day that I met Billy Ray we gelled and

been a friend."

Billy Ray has also left a mark on MJ Holman practical nurse program. Holman said,

"He keeps this third floor spotless."

"Billy also takes pride in his work and always has a smile on his face and a kind word for everyone."

Billy Ray didn't start his career off here at LSUS. He once owned his own janitorial business, Russell Cleaning Janitorial Services, back in 1976. That venture ended sadly in 1992 when he suffered the death of his first wife. Billy Ray started here at LSUS in 2006.

We just wanted to tell you Billy Ray that we're proud of you!

